

SOVIET STATEMENT ON U.S. PROVOCATIONS

Moscow TASS in English to Europe 0938 GMT 11 September 1962--L

(Text) Moscow--The Soviet Government has authorized TASS to state that the U.S. Government is staging provocations which might plunge the world into the disaster of a universal world war with the use of thermonuclear weapons. The Government of the USSR declares that "one cannot now attack Cuba and expect that the aggressor will be free from punishment for this attack. If such an attack is made, this will be the beginning of unleashing war." The Soviet Government appeals to the Government of the United States, urging it to "display common sense, not to lose self-control, and soberly to assess what its actions might lead to if it unleashes war."

The Soviet Government declares that it will not follow the road of the United States, which is calling up 150,000 reservists. Instead, it "regards it as its duty to display vigilance in the present situation and to instruct the minister of defense of the Soviet Union and the Command of the Soviet Army to take all measures to bring our armed forces into the highest state of combat readiness."

"However," the statement says, "these are exclusively precautionary measures. We shall do our utmost to see to it that peace is not violated." The Soviet Government appeals to the peoples, urging them to denounce the aggressive schemes, not to allow the U.S. aggressors to engineer war, and to safeguard world peace.

The following is the full text of the TASS statement.

The Soviet Government has authorized TASS to make the following statement:

The Soviet Government has stated more than once that in carrying out a policy of peaceful coexistence with all countries irrespective of their socio-political order it has exerted and is exerting every effort to safeguard peace for all the peoples of the world and to secure agreement on general and complete disarmament under strict international control. The Soviet Government deems it necessary to draw the attention of all governments and world opinion to the provocations the U.S. Government is now staging, provocations which might plunge the world into the disaster of a universal thermonuclear world war.

U.S. bellicose-minded reactionary elements have long been conducting an unbridled propaganda campaign against the Cuban Republic in the U.S. Congress and press, calling for an attack on Cuba and an attack on Soviet ships carrying the necessary commodities and food to the Cuban people; in short, calling for war.

At first the Soviet Union did not pay special importance to this propaganda against peace, against humanity and humaneness. It believed that this propaganda was being conducted by irresponsible persons who do not represent or heed the interests of the people, that all this provocative clamor was being raised in the United States in connection with coming congressional elections, when the rival bourgeois parties--the Republicans and Democrats--following the custom in imperialist states, vie with each other to see who can hurl more infamies against the peace forces.

Unfortunately, there still are many people in the United States who are being fooled by this vile propaganda. U.S. monopoly capital, which owns the entire radio-press communications system, all means of influencing the minds of the peoples, is keeping the American people captives of ignorance and taking advantage of this to condition U.S. public opinion in a direction that suits them. During the many years of coexistence with the United States have become accustomed to this kind of Devil's Sabbath, and therefore did not attach special importance to it.

Now, however, one can no longer ignore this, because the U.S. President has asked Congress for permission to call up 150,000 reservists to the U.S. armed forces. In explaining the reasons for his request, the President said that the United States must have the means to rapidly and effectively reach, in case of need, a danger that might arise in any part of the free world; that he was taking such a step in connection with the strengthening of the armed forces of Cuba, which, according to the United States, is aggravating tension and all but creates a threat to other countries.

Such a step by the U.S. Government cannot be assessed otherwise than as a screen from the aggressive plans and intentions of the United States itself, and will inevitably lead to aggravating the international atmosphere. It is said that this step is allegedly designed to ease tension, but it has never been thought that a fire can be put out by kerosene or gasoline. Each thoughtful person understands that such steps do not lead to the relaxation of tension; on the contrary, they are a means of aggravating tension to the limit and creating a situation where the disaster of a world thermonuclear war could be sparked off by some accident. Hence, this is a provocation against peace, taken in the interests of war, in the interests of aggression.

The U.S. leaders are seeking to explain this step by the aggravation of tension. But, compared with the situation a year or even two ago, no special change can be observed. Hence, such a step is designed not to ease but to aggravate tension in the international situation.

What is it, then, that has taken place which has alarmed and impelled the U.S. Government to take such aggressive actions? Members of the U.S. Congress and press are calling a spade a spade, thus giving away the real inside story behind such U.S. steps. The U.S. imperialists have been alarmed by the failure of the U.S.-staged economic blockade of revolutionary Cuba. They would like to strangle the Cuban people, to make them their satellite, to wipe out the achievements of the revolution accomplished by the heroic people of Cuba. To attain these ends they have refused to purchase sugar from Cuba and to sell to it their goods, including even medicine and food; they have not even stopped at seeking to strangle children, old folk, and adults by the rawboned hand of starvation. And all this they call humaneness.

The Soviet Union, like the other socialist countries, has stretched out a hand of assistance to the Cuban people because we fully understand Cuba's situation. After the October Revolution, when the young Soviet state was in a capitalist encirclement and the peoples of our country lived through tremendous difficulties caused by postwar destruction, the United States, instead of rendering assistance, staged armed intervention against the Soviet Republic. U.S. troops were landed in Murmansk, Archangel, and in the Far East; British troops were landed at Archangel and occupied Baku; French troops were landed at Odessa, and Japanese in Primorye Kray. The imperialist powers set up counterrevolutionary armies under the leadership of Kolchak, Yudenich, Denikin, and Wrangel, and mobilized and armed the entire counterrevolutionary mob, this scum. The peoples of the Soviet Union firmly resolved to establish their own internal order which would accord with their aspirations. They exerted great effort and sacrificed many lives to smash the internal counterrevolution and expel the foreign invaders from the country.

The Soviet Union, in spite of tremendous difficulties, not only held out in the struggle for its independence but also demonstrated to the whole world the superiority of the people's socialist order, in which all means of production belong to the people and where everything is done for the sake of the people. The whole world knows that the Soviet Union was the first socialist country to make tremendous progress in the advance of its economy, science, and culture and the first to blaze a trail into outer space, successfully continuing its exploration;

The peaceful constructive labor of the Soviet people is yielding rich fruit. The flight of two Soviet spacemen side by side for three to four days and the simultaneous landing of their spaceships overwhelmed the minds of all honest people, who rejoice in progress, in the successes of the Soviet Union, and in the exploration of outer space for peaceful purposes. This has been a striking manifestation of the peace-loving policy of the Soviet Union, whose every effort is aimed at safeguarding peace and the progress of mankind.

The United States now wants to repeat against little heroic Cuba what it undertook at one time against our country. But one can say confidently that such plans are doomed to failure. The Soviet Union could not fail to ignore the situation in which Cuba found itself as a result of imperialist provocations and threats, and it went fraternally to the Cuban people's assistance. This is being done by other socialist countries, too, and also by other peace-loving states which maintain trade relations with Cuba. Soviet ships are carrying to Cuba the goods it needs and returning with commodities it has in abundance, particularly sugar, which the United States--previously the main importer--has refused to buy in the hope of undermining the Cuban economy. This is why the Soviet Union and other socialist countries are buying this sugar--to support the Cuban economy.

If one is honest and proceeds from the understanding of the need for living in peace, declared by the U.S. President himself--to safeguard peaceful coexistence between states irrespective of their socio-political order--what could have alarmed the U.S. leaders? What is the reason for raising this devil's sabbath over Cuba in Congress and in the U.S. press?

The point is, they say, that armaments and even troops are being shipped from the Soviet Union to Cuba. To this one can say: Gentlemen, you are evidently so frightened that you are afraid of your own shadow and you do not believe in the strength of your ideas and your capitalist order. You have been so frightened by the October Socialist Revolution and the successes of the Soviet Union, achieved and developed on the basis of this revolution, that it seems to you hordes are moving to Cuba when potatoes, oil, tractors, harvester combines, and other farming and industrial machinery are actually being transported there to maintain its economy.

We can say to these people that these are our ships, and that what we carry in them is no business of theirs; it is the internal affair of the sides engaged in this commercial transaction. We can quote the popular saying: Don't stick your noses into other people's business. But we are not hiding from the world the fact that we are really supplying Cuba with industrial equipment and goods which are helping to strengthen its economy and raise the well-being of the Cuban people.

At the request of the Cuban Government, we are also sending Soviet agronomists, machine operators, tractor drivers, and livestock experts to share their experience and knowledge with their Cuban friends in order to help them raise the country's economy. We are also sending rank-and-file state and collective farm workers and accepting thousands of Cubans in the Soviet Union to exchange experience and teach them the more progressive methods of agriculture, to help them master the Soviet farm machinery which is being supplied them.

It will be recalled that a certain amount of armaments is also being shipped from the Soviet Union to Cuba at the request of the Cuban Government in connection with the threats by aggressive imperialist circles. The Cuban statesmen also requested the Soviet Government to send Soviet military specialists and technicians who would train the Cubans in handling up-to-date weapons, because up-to-date weapons now call for high skill and much knowledge. It is only natural that Cuba does not yet have such specialists. That is why we considered this request. It must be said, however, that the number of Soviet military specialists sent to Cuba can in no way be compared to the number of agricultural workers being sent there.

The armaments and military equipment sent to Cuba are designed exclusively for defensive purposes, and the U.S. President and military, just as the military of any country, know what means of defense are. How can these means threaten the United States?

No, gentlemen, this is not what is alarming you. You yourselves realize the absurdity of your claim that there is some threat to the United States emerging from Cuba. You have invented this threat yourselves, and now you want to persuade others of its existence. It is the revolutionary spirit you fear, and not the military equipment received by the Cubans for their own defense. And why should this alarm you if the statement by the U.S. President that the United States is not preparing an aggression against Cuba, is not contemplating an attack against it, accords with the real intentions of the U.S. government? If this is an honest statement, and the U.S. Government abides by it in its policy, then the means of defense which Cuba is getting will not be used because the need to use them will arise only in the event of aggression against Cuba.

The Soviet Government has also authorized TASS to state that there is no need for the Soviet Union to shift its weapons for the repulsion of aggression, for a retaliatory blow, to any other country--like Cuba. Our nuclear weapons are so powerful in their explosive force, and the Soviet Union has such powerful rockets to carry these nuclear warheads, that there is no need to search for sites for them beyond the boundaries of the Soviet Union.

We have said and we repeat that if war is unleashed, if the aggressor makes an attack on one state or another, and this state asks for assistance, the Soviet Union can render assistance to any peace-loving state--and not only to Cuba--from its own territory. And let no one doubt that the Soviet Union will render such assistance just as it was ready in 1956 to render military assistance to Egypt at the time of the Anglo-French-Israeli aggression in the Suez Canal region. We are not saying this to frighten anyone. Intimidation is alien to the foreign policy of the Soviet State. Threats and blackmail are an integral part of the imperialist states. The Soviet Union stands for peace and does not want war.

The Soviet Government calls the attention of the world public and all governments which stand for peaceful coexistence to the fact that even now, when the United States is preparing an act of aggression and is increasing its armed forces for this purpose by calling up 150,000 reservists into the army, when the U.S. President is asking Congress for permission to do this, USSR Minister of Defense Marshal Malinovskiy has ordered that those servicemen who have completed their term and be discharged and then transferred to the reserves.

Trained soldiers are being released from the Soviet armed forces and recruits are being called up to replenish the units. This alone is a clear enough indication of our peaceful intentions. No government would take such a measure if it contemplated any action of a military nature. One must realize what it means when trained soldiers are being released from the army and recruits called up who must yet be trained--and this is not so easy to do considering the complex military equipment of today, which requires a great amount of knowledge not only from commanders but from every private. In taking this step we are realizing measures in our daily life which confirm that the Soviet Union is following a policy of insuring peace and friendship with all peoples.

The Soviet Union will not take any similar retaliatory action to the call-up of 150,000 reservists in the United States, the more so since this cannot be of any serious military importance, given up-to-date means of nuclear rocket warfare. If in the past the yardstick for armies of the belligerents was mainly the number of soldiers, sabers, and bayonets, in our time the might of these armies is determined by a different yardstick--nuclear rocket weapons.

But at a moment when the United States is taking measures to mobilize its armed forces and preparing for aggression against Cuba and other peace-loving states, the Soviet Government would like to draw attention to the fact that one cannot attack Cuba and expect that the aggressor will be free from punishment. If this attack is made, it will be the beginning of the unleashing of war.

How are the preparations for aggression against Cuba being explained? By saying that Soviet merchant ships are carrying cargoes to Cuba, and the United States considers them to be military cargoes. But this is a purely internal matter between the states which send these cargos and those which buy and receive them.

The whole world knows that the United States has ringed the Soviet Union and other the socialist countries with bases. What have they stationed there--tractors? Are they perhaps growing rice, wheat, potatoes, or some other farm crops there? No, they have brought armaments there in their ships, and these armaments, stationed along the frontiers of the Soviet Union--in Turkey, Iran, Greece, Italy, Britain, Holland, Pakistan, and other countries belonging to the military blocs of NATO, CENTO, and SEATO--are said to be there lawfully, by right. They consider this their right. But to others the United States does not permit this right even for defense, and when measures are nevertheless taken to strengthen the defenses of this or that country the United States raises an outcry and declares that an attack, if you please, is being prepared against them. What conceit. The United States apparently believes that under present conditions one can proceed to aggression with impunity.

Equal rights and equal opportunities must be recognized for all countries of the world. This not only conforms with the recognized standards of international law which have already taken shape, but should be strictly adhered to in practical life and activity. And what happens in fact? The United States, for instance, is now allegedly mobilizing because our merchant ships are proceeding to Cuba. Yet U.S. ships, and it is not a question of merchant ships but warships--the entire U.S. Sixth Fleet--are in the Mediterranean. How many kilometers is this from the United States? The U.S. Seventh Fleet is in Taiwan Strait. By how many thousands of kilometers is this fleet separated from U.S. shores? It is even said in the United States that they have the right to be there.

For what purposes are these fleets in the Mediterranean and in Taiwan Strait? They are not peaceful ones. That much is certain. They have aggressive military aims. And can to be conducive to normal relations when U.S. warships cruise off the shores of other states, while American admirals and generals, as if competing with each other, prattle in the press and radio from time to time about the Sixth and Seventh fleets being designed for attack, for destroying the socialist countries?

As long as this madness continues, this policy will not contribute to strengthening peace but, on the contrary, will always be a source which might at any moment produce a military conflict with all the attendant consequences.

A vile campaign against the Soviet Union is now being conducted in the United States. It is shouted from the housetops that since a merchant fleet is plying between the USSR and Cuba, carrying freight, this gives the United States the right to attack Cuba and the Soviet Union. But what purpose is served by the presence of U.S. warships in Turkish ports, and by what right is their stay there regarded as lawful and normal? What do they want--to obtain for themselves some exclusion from the general rules? What is declared a violation of standards for one is regarded as normal for others.

We warn that given present conditions the socialist camp has no fewer forces and opportunities than the United States and its allies in war blocs. This must be taken into consideration. One must be guided by this in politics so that it does not prejudice one side or the other. Only under these conditions can one avoid a military conflict and safeguard peace. To resort to provocation, under the absurd expectation of frightening the other side, means irresponsible playing with the destinies of the world. Such a policy can only lead to dismal results.

It should be remembered that the time has gone forever when the United States had a monopoly on nuclear weapons. Today the Soviet Union has these weapons in sufficient quantities and of a higher quality. It should, therefore, be known that he who starts a war, he who sows the wind, will reap the hurricane. In digging an abyss for its opponents an aggressor will inevitably fall into it himself. Only a madman can now think that a war started by him will be a calamity only for the people against whom it is unleashed. No, by now Hitler's experience should have taught something to those who contemplate aggression today. Hitler, who started a war along with Mussolini, perished in it himself and brought disaster to all people of the world. A war now would be a hundredfold more terrible, and it would bring calamities both to the people against whom the United States is now preparing aggression and to the people of the United States itself--and probably greater rather than lesser calamities at that. This will be even more true of those states, allies of the United States, which border on the Soviet Union, and also of its other allies in Europe and Asia.

But those quarters that determine the policy of the United States do not take this into consideration. They set up military bases on the territory of U.S. allies, build up nuclear weapons stores there, and install rockets, for example, in Turkey, Italy, and Japan. It is not difficult to understand what fate they are preparing for these,

their allies, in case of war. For all this is done to attack the Soviet Union, the CPR, the DPRK, and other socialist states. This is well understood by the people in those very countries where U.S. military bases are being established, for example, in Japan, whose people are resolutely protesting against these bases.

In light of the latest events, in light of the request of the U.S. President to Congress for the permission to call up 150,000 reservists, the Soviet Government also assesses differently the flight of the American U-2 reconnaissance plane over Soviet territory in the region of Sakhalin on 30 August of this year. Reports have appeared to effect that U-2 planes are being based in Britain, Japan, Turkey, and the German Federal Republic, and are making flights from American bases in those countries. These flights are explained by the allegation that they have peaceful purposes--they take air samples, study cloud movements. But today it is even more clear what samples they are taking and for what purposes these flights are made.

That is why the Soviet Government appeals to the people, urging them to raise a voice denouncing aggressive schemes, to prevent the American aggressors from unleashing war, to safeguard world peace.

The USSR Government appeals to the Soviet people, urging them to continue working as successfully as they are now. The government of the Soviet Union will do its utmost to safeguard peace and peaceful coexistence with all countries. But this does not always depend on us. The Soviet Union did not want World War II, but Hitler imposed it on us and we were forced to wage war. That is why we must do everything to be prepared, to see to it that our armed forces--the strategic rocket forces and the ground forces, the antiaircraft defense, the navy, and especially the submarine fleet of the Soviet Union--are able to cope with their tasks. If the aggressors unleash war, our armed forces must be ready to strike a crushing retaliatory blow against the aggressor.

The Soviet Government will not follow the way of the United States, which is calling up 150,000 reservists. If we imitated this U.S. action, we would do what apparently is wanted by certain American circles: we would help them inflame the situation. But neither can we disregard the aggressive preparations of the United States. The Soviet Government considers it its duty in this situation to display vigilance and to instruct the minister of defense of the Soviet Union and the command of the Soviet Army to take all measures to raise our armed forces to peak military preparedness. But these are exclusively precautionary measures. We shall do everything on our part so that peace is not disturbed.

The Soviet Government appeals to the government of the United States, urging it to display commonsense, not to lose self-control, and to soberly assess where its actions might lead if it unleashes war. Instead of aggravating the atmosphere by such actions as the mobilization of reservists, which is tantamount to the threat of starting war, it would be much more sensible if the government of the United States, displaying wisdom, would offer a kind gesture--would establish diplomatic and trade relations with Cuba, the desirability of which has been recently declared by the Cuban Government. If the American Government displayed this wisdom, the peoples would assess this properly as a realistic contribution of the United States to the relaxation of international tension, the strengthening of world peace.

If normal diplomatic and trade relations were established between the United States of America and Cuba, there would be no need for Cuba to strengthen its defenses, its armed forces. For then nobody would menace Cuba with war or other aggressive actions, and the situation would become normal. This is how matters now stand. Such is the situation at present.

The Soviet Government has declared more than once and declares now: We are stretching out a hand of friendship to the people and government of the United States. We would like to pool our efforts with the governments of the United States and other countries to solve all ripe international problems; to safeguard peace on earth. To do so, one must agree, above all, on the first step which might be a solution of the problem of ending nuclear weapons tests. We are ready for this, ready to sign a relevant agreement. We are ready to reach agreement on general and complete disarmament under strict international control.

The Soviet Government expresses the hope that the U.S. Government will at last draw sober conclusions concerning the need for a peace treaty with Germany. There have been many negotiations on this question, but no progress has thus far been made. A pause has now been reached in the talks on a German peace treaty, but the issue remains as sharp as ever before and is felt even more acutely now in view of the provocations by revanchists in West Berlin against the GDR. It is said that it is difficult for the United States to negotiate on the German peace treaty now as elections to the American Congress are due in November. Well, the Soviet Government is prepared to reckon with this. But one cannot link the solution of the question of a German peace treaty all the time to elections in this or that country. Elections are held often--now here, now there--and further delay in settling the question of a German peace treaty can only produce fresh difficulties and fresh dangers. The Soviet Government as before, stands for the earliest conclusion of a German peace treaty and the adjustment of the situation in West Berlin on its basis.

This task must be accomplished, and it will be accomplished. The sovereignty of the GDR must be protected, and it will be protected. The vestiges of World War II in Europe, including the occupation regime in West Berlin, must be liquidated, and they will be liquidated. This accords not only with the interests of the Soviet Union and the GDR, it accords with the vital interests of all states, all peoples.

The Soviet Union is stretching out a hand of friendship to all countries, to all peoples of the world, in order to achieve by common effort the establishment of an enduring, inviolable peace on our planet. As regards questions of the internal socio-political order of states, they must be settled by each nation independently and without any outside intervention. Peace can be safeguarded only if one respects the inalienable right of each nation to independence, if one strictly observes the principle of nonintervention by some states in the domestic affairs of other states. That is precisely the meaning of peaceful coexistence, underlying the peaceable policy of the Soviet state.

U.S. FIANS 'AGGRESSION' AGAINST CUBA

U.S. Warned

Moscow in Spanish to Latin America 2300 GMT 8 September 1962--E

(Commentary by/Karchev?/)

(Text) Every day the world learns of fresh threats against peaceful Cuba from aggressive U.S. circles. Cuba is threatened in public statements by the bellicose U.S. congressmen. The Republican leadership in Congress insists on adopting an anti-Cuban resolution. Its sponsors say the resolution would give President Kennedy the right to take any measure he feels necessary against Cuba. For a long time the U.S. press has been discussing these measures with cynical frankness. Among other things, it speaks of a military blockade of the island and direct armed invasion.

It is reported from Washington that President Kennedy is asking Congress for authority to call up 150,000 reservists for duty. This measure can only be considered blackmail and a threat to the Cuban Republic. This is understood even in the United States.

The State Department is making its contribution to the anti-Cuban hysteria. Secretary of State Rusk is preparing an informal meeting of Latin American diplomats for the purpose of again urging Cuba's sister nations to take aggressive steps against the isle of freedom. Another attempt is being made to carry out an infamous task under the OAS flag, that of dragging the Latin American peoples into a fratricidal war. Meanwhile, the Pentagon concentrates military forces in the Caribbean.